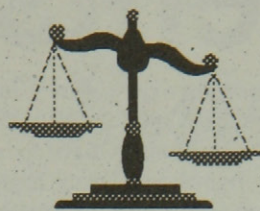


# Quid Novi



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UNIVERSITÉ MCGILL FACULTÉ DE DROIT  
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September 26, 1994  
le 26 septembre, 1994

## Parizeau's "Third Period"

Craig Shepherd  
LLB II

For the past year, Parti Québécois leader Mr. Jacques Parizeau has used a hockey metaphor with the Canadian media to describe political developments in this province. The Premier-Elect would have us believe that, following last Monday's ousting of Mr. Daniel Johnson's Liberals, Québec is now in the "second period." (For those just joining the game, the election of the Bloc Québécois to Ottawa represents the "first period". The third period, Mr. Parizeau has said, is the campaign for a referendum on Quebec secession.)

Mr. Parizeau is no novice in this seemingly never-ending match between federalist and separatist forces in Québec. A self-proclaimed left-winger, he is a seasoned veteran of the political game who once hung up his jersey but returned

to lead the current team of old P.Q. stalwarts. Nevertheless, the performance of Mr. Parizeau on September 12, 1994 fell far short of widely accepted expectations that he would garner more than 50% of the popular vote and 80 seats in the National Assembly. Instead, the P.Q. won 77 seats and a 44.7% share of the vote. It looks like it's back to Howie Meeker Hockey School for Jacques and his friends.

What is most encouraging about the outcome of the election is the fact that the vote did not break down along cultural or linguistic lines. With the popular vote virtually split between Mr. Johnson and Mr. Parizeau, one might conclude that each team has its share of anglophones, allophones and francophones. The talent on Mr. Parizeau's bench doesn't appear to be as deep and broad as the scouts had predicted.

Mr. Parizeau must hatch a delicate "third period" strategy to invigorate the economy while at the same time building a campaign for sovereignty. He has pledged to eliminate the deficit of \$2.8 billion in two years, to spend \$122 million on new projects, and to levy a new payroll tax for job training. Most economic observers believe that Mr. Parizeau's flexibility to introduce new programs will be severely limited; most of his time will be spent staving off creditors for the debt-ridden province. Essentially Mr. Parizeau has portrayed himself to be Johnny Appleseed on skates, sprinkling short-sighted patronage goodies across the province to prepare for the referendum.

The referee in this game of course will be Uncle Sam. The 1970s captain of the P.Q. squad was Mr. René Levesque, who recruited support from France to bolster the prospects for "sovereignty-

(Continued on page 7)

## Subversive Advice For First Years

Angus McMurtry  
LLB II

About this time last year, just as I was beginning my studies here at our beloved law school, I was told by many cynical upper-year students that there seemed to be little or not relationship between effort and marks. Indeed, if there was any discernible relationship, they informed me, it was an inverse one: more work in a given subject and a better understanding of it (or at least *perceived* understanding of it) usually meant worse

marks.

Nonsense, I thought, possessed with typical first-year hubris. Obviously these upper-years did not know how to approach these subjects and were simply getting immersed in details instead of seeing the big picture, not being able to "see the forest for the trees," as it were. Such a perverse rule could not possibly apply to me. In my undergraduate years, I practically majored in getting the most efficient academic results out of given amount of effort. Needless to say, I have

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# Announcements / Annonces

## ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION OF MCGILL

The next ELAM meeting will be Wednesday, September 24th at 12h30 in Room 102 OCDH. All welcome.

## INTERAMICUS PRESENTS THE MAYOR OF JERUSALEM

A special McGill/InterAmicus Public Affairs Forum will take place on Wednesday, September 28th, 1994, at 8 P.M. in the Moot Court. The guest speaker will be His Excellency, Ehud Olmert, M.K., the recently elected Mayor of Jerusalem, on the topic "The Historical-Legal-Multicultural Status of Jerusalem". Ehud Olmert became the youngest person ever elected to the Israeli Parliament (Knesset) when first elected in 1974, and he has been elected to every successive Parliament. A graduate of the Hebrew University Faculty of Law and a former Minister of Health and Minister of Minority Rights in the Israeli government, he has served both on the Security and Foreign Affairs Committee as well as on the Law and Justice Committee of the Israeli Parliament; a frequent guest on the North American and European public affairs broadcasting media, he is one of the most informed and articulate of Israel's public figures. The lecture, the topic, the times promise to make this a most interesting event.

## LEGAL THEORY WORKSHOP

The first Legal Theory Workshop of the year will be given by Prof. Philip Soper of the University of Michigan Law School on **Friday, September 30, 1994 at 11:30 A.M. in Room 202**. His topic is "The Normative Claims of the Law". Professor Soper is best known for his important book A Theory of Law (Harvard U. Press, 1984) and for his many articles in leading law and philosophy journals on the duty to obey the law and related topics. He teaches jurisprudence, political theory, environmental law and contracts at Michigan. Most recently, he completed a tour of lectures at Japan's leading national law schools. His paper is clear and accessible to a general audience and a copy will be placed on Library Reserve. All students are warmly invited to attend what promises to be a most interesting session. It begins at 11:30 A.M. and lasts for one hour (which includes 30 minutes of discussion).

## ABORIGINAL LAW CONFERENCE

The Indigenous Bar Association (IBA) will be hosting the 2nd Annual Aboriginal Law Practice Forum, "Strategies for the 90's and Beyond". It will take place October 21-22, 1994 at the Holiday Inn in

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Topics include Family Law and Aboriginal Culture, Elders Participation in the Justice System, Young Offenders and the Law, Advancing Aboriginal and Treaty Rights, Resource Law and Aboriginal Rights, Saskatchewan Treaty Land entitlement and Entertainment Law. For more information on how to register and/or become a member of the IBA, please drop us a note in the Quid box in the LSA office.

## UNITED NATIONS TRIP

The U.N. Trip is on for October 20-23, 1994. The cost is \$131.00. Reservations will go on sale as of Wednesday, September 28, 1994, in the Pit at 12h30. For more information contact Adam Atlas at 398-6966.

## \*\*\*YEARBOOK\*\*\*

**Desperately needed:** Volunteers to co-ordinate this year's yearbook. Interested persons please contact Kiri at 398-6966.

## NOTES FROM THE OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES...

**Course Verification Week** takes place **11-14 October inclusive**. The Porter's Desk outside Moot Court will be set up daily from 9:30-16:30 for you to check your record. First term examination numbers will also be issued at this time.

**Locker lists** are posted in the cafeteria. Consult these lists to find your locker assignment for the year. Students camped in a locker assigned to someone else will have their lock cut off and the contents removed. **Upper Canada Bar** applications will not be available before the end of October. Watch the electronic Bulletin Board for notice of their arrival.

Once the installation of E-mail for student use is complete, announcements and information previously contained in this column will be available to you on the system. **Remember to check your E-mail daily.** Until this sophisticated communications system is functioning, continue to scan this space for information you will need to help survive Law School.

Previous threats to the contrary, we still have papers and essays from last term. You are invited to check the boxes to see if yours is there. Papers and essays unclaimed by Friday 23rd September will be shredded!!

You may notice that first year students have newly designed I.D. cards. If you have an old one, don't

worry - your existing card is still good and does not have to be replaced.

This is the first reminder of the year directed to B.C.L.II and LL.B.II students - you have been automatically registered in the four-year National Programme. If you wish to opt out of the National Programme, please complete the green form available from the USO and give it to Isabella.

## DECORATE YOUR POOL!!

Do you have an eye for decor? The LSA is seeking suggestions for the re-decoration of the western wall of the pool room (the wall where there used to be a mural). Two suggestions have been made so far. One is to make the wall into a "Grad-Wall" that graduating students would be allowed to sign. Another suggestion has been to solicit works of art from students in the Faculty, and exhibit them on the walls of the pool room. Unleash your creativity in the Suggestion Box in the Pool Room.

**Tired of Tetris?!!?** The LSA wants to refresh the video games in the Pool Room. If you are trigger happy for any particular shoot-em-up or adventure game, please let the LSA know by dropping off a suggestion in the Pool Room box. Live your adventure fantasy now, while you still can.

## PROJECT PROMETHIUS

Interested in doing a little volunteer work this year? I am organizing, with an already established foundation called "Project Promethius" (founded by young Montreal lawyers), for a group of McGill Law students to be matched as "mentors" with individual high school kids around Montreal who are at high risk of dropping out of school. Your commitment would be just 2 hours once a week and would be a great opportunity for you to encourage and motivate kids who might not otherwise be exposed to such special attention. If this interests you - please call Leslie at 284-1211 and leave a message.

## GRADUATE STUDIES:

Graduating this year? Interested in doing graduate studies in law? If you do wish to do graduate work at another university, please contact Professor Jeremy Webber at 398-8947. If you are graduating this year, you should contact Professor Webber as soon as possible because some of the application deadlines are very early (the first was on September 21) and the applications take time to put together. Professor Webber has considerable information on scholarships for study abroad, and would be happy to advise you on potential destinations and sources of funds.

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# EDITORIAL (sort of):

## Quid Novi Restructuring

What follows likely does not fall within the definition that most people would attach to the word "editorial". I have decided to run it in this column for two reasons: (1) Although the issues are already decided they may well be subject to further debate. (2) To save myself some time.

This is the last **weekly** issue of the *Quid Novi* for this term. After this week the *Quid Novi* will be published once every two weeks for the remainder of first term. Thus, the next issue will come out on Wednesday, 12 October 1994. The deadline for submissions to this issue (which will be a special issue on "stress", and how to deal with it [a timely topic for many no doubt]; of course, submissions on other topics are welcome also) is Friday, 30 September 1994, (i.e. two days from now). Let me explain why this is happening.

The *Quid Novi* is currently undergoing a massive reorganisation of its operations. As we welcome a new Production Editor, Don McGowan, and numerous other new staff members, especially first year students, we have decided to streamline the whole production process. What this means is that all editors and some new staff members will be trained in all aspects of *Quid Novi* production. This will require time and patience on the part of everyone.

In my mind, if we were to have maintained the weekly run right now, with or without reorganisation, either the quality of the *Quid Novi* would have suffered or the academic standing of *Quid Novi* staff members would have suffered. The staff training and the implementation of

procedural changes are going to take time, probably a good month until things are running smoothly. I, personally, am certainly not willing to let my academic work suffer as a result. I know that other staff members also feel this way. Having brought the *Quid Novi* to a certain level of consistent quality we are also not willing to sacrifice such gains to date. Thus, we have had to compromise by cutting the run of the *Quid Novi* to once every two weeks for a while. This has been done in accordance with our Constitution, and the training and implementation processes are already well under way.

I would be more than willing to speak to anyone who feels that this cut in the number of *Quid Novi*'s is unacceptable. But please, if you are going to argue it, think about it first. What it means is that we, the *Quid Novi* staff, will have some time to try new ideas and improve how we are doing things. As it has been, the production process is rushed each week; because of strict deadlines, there is little time for the production crews to be creative or innovative with the layout. This bimonthly run also means that each issue will be bigger and, hopefully, better. While it will make it more difficult to give advance notice of events going on within the Faculty we are hoping that the new "everything-on-E-mail-and-everyone-checking-it-daily" system will help out for this term.

There is one more thing. I have decided to resign as Editor-in-Chief of the *Quid Novi* as of January 1, 1995. It is an incredibly satisfying job in many ways, but it also takes a lot of time. At this point, I do not feel

able to give as much time as I have in the past to non-academic pursuits. When I took on the job of Editor-in-Chief again last April, I was not positive as to what courses I would be taking this year. Since that time, I have had the opportunity to work in areas of the law which utterly fascinate me. Those who know me well will understand the revelatory nature of that last sentence. I have decided to do paper courses in these areas and I want to focus as much energy as possible on these papers. I am finding this difficult to do with the *Quid Novi* always on my mind and in my schedule. I feel very badly about having made a commitment and now breaking it, but I must.

As for the transition to a new Editor-in-Chief, I really do not think it will be a problem (I certainly hope not, at least). By January, the reorganisation will have been implemented and the new operation running for some time. The staff are dedicated and hard-working and, literally, full of new ideas. If you are interested in the position of Editor-in-Chief I would suggest that you get involved with the *Quid Novi* now because you are not the only such person. I know there are qualified people interested. The problem may well be, deciding on one person. Elections will be held at the end of November 1994. The date will be announced well in advance.

I won't say goodbye, as E-in-C, yet, because I still have a few months to go. Instead I'll say this - When you write for the *Quid Novi*, life takes on a newer, fuller meaning. Trust me.

Jay Sinha



I never thought that it would happen, at least not to me. I was always the champion of leisure time, whiling away the endless hours, blissfully ignorant of things so mundane as studying or -- heaven forbid -- work. Yet this year I must say that things have gotten royally screwed up with the cancellation of all these classes. I can't finalize the schedule at the Legal Information Clinic because all my volunteers are constantly running off to makeup classes; I've gone nearly cross-eyed from reading the class cancellation board; and all the uncertainty has thrown my circadian rhythm out of whack. I'm not quite sure who to thank (or to blame) for this bittersweet turn of events. I could apportion equal parts of blame to Daniel Johnson, God, and Dean Toope (please note that the participants in this list appear in ascending order of authority).

I blame Daniel Johnson for putting off his inevitable defeat so that it would coincide with the first day of the second week of classes. Much to his credit, he wasn't beaten like a red-headed stepchild, and much to the amazement of the election pundits. I'm a firm believer in the crooked politician theory that states that the longer an election campaign runs, the greater the chance that the candidate will expose him or herself for the dirty, rotten, thieving, lying cheat he or she really is. Most of them are so crooked that they need the help of two people to screw their pants on in the morning. Anyway, the only tangible result of this election is that it caused us to miss yet another day of school, and force us to attend yet another day of makeup classes. For those of you who are staring in disbelief and saying, "What do you mean Jody? There is a colossal difference between the parties -- one is sovereignist and one is federalist.", for you I have but one quote: "Meet the new boss same as the old boss. Won't get fooled again!" -- Pete Townsend. All politicians are the same in the way they try to treat the populace like mushrooms, keeping them in the dark and feeding them a steady diet of shit!

There's plenty of blame to go around though, and Daniel Johnson is only blameworthy for his 33-1/3%. I blame God for three of the days that we missed and have to make up. I mean if the almighty could swoop down in the Tower of Babel and mix up everyone's language, part the Red Sea, and create Adam out of the dust of the earth, why couldn't the creator put the New Year where it belongs, at Passover. If the Faculty wanted to, they needn't have cancelled classes for Rosh Hashana because the Jewish New Year celebration isn't the new

application was rejected because I was overqualified), I'd want to throw a big party in the country and invite everyone except me too!

You might notice that I haven't assigned any blame to the professors. Well, the professors aren't really to blame. They only follow what the divine being, a.k.a. Dean Toope, says. Also, you can't blame them for sticking doggedly to the perception that they can't get it all in unless they have every minute of class time promised them by the course outline, those who have given us one. The only time that a professor is going to make what they have to say fit the time remaining is when they're pleading in front of the Supreme Court.

In true fairness though, students aren't the only ones who have been hard done by all this seat-of-the-pants scheduling. Class cancellations inconvenience everyone, including the professors. Though you may not believe it, there are a couple of them out there who would be much happier drinking beer with you at Coffee House than teaching you a makeup during it. In an ideal world, Dean Toope would have had a little pow-wow with God and gotten him to change the legal fiction of the Jewish New Year to the 8th and 9th of Tishrei, instead of the 1st. In a perfect world, the second week of school would have gone something like this:

Day one: Jody Berkes, candidate for the Rhinoceros Party, is swept into power by an overwhelming majority. Days two and three: students at the Law Faculty celebrate the Jewish New Year with an extended two-day coffee house. Day four: students at the Law Faculty atone for the sins they committed during said coffee house. Day five: Dean Toope throws a victory party for Premier Berkes in the Laurentians. And there wouldn't be any classes made up for any of it.

*Jody Berkes is a third-year law student who realizes that not everything that everyone says is worth listening to. That's why he types his column which appears weekly in the Quid Novi.*

year. Actually, the Jewish New Year celebration is based on the following legal fiction. Tishrei is referred to in the Book of Numbers as the seventh month of the Jewish calendar, not the first, where one would expect a New Year's celebration to be. However, Jews do in fact celebrate New Year on the first day of Tishrei, therefore a legal fiction second only to the "meeting of the minds" in a contract concluded with a common carrier. In truth though, the Law Faculty should be commended for making allowances for Jewish observances, and I personally appreciate the gesture very much.

Well, the only one left to blame is Dean Toope. Actually, I really can't blame him either. If I were Dean of the Law Faculty (unfortunately my



# Singapore Connection - Part ii

## Singapore Update

By E. Marian W. Tremblay

## Historical Review

By Vincent M. de Grandpre

### In The Beginning...

Authorities at the Faculty suggested we write to the Quid while in Singapore if we wanted to get our courses credited. But please don't think we're only writing to get credits!!! Seriously!

It all started a year ago, on an October afternoon, when Associate Dean Harvison-Young held an information session on the exchange programmes at McGill. At the information session, AHY mentioned the possibility of an exchange with Singapore. As Marian had always wanted to go to South-East Asia before joining the legal sweatshop sect, he went to meet Mr. Gary Bell, the mastermind behind this affair. Vincent was also taken by the possibility of participating in an exchange with Singapore. The two of them ended up in Professor Bell's office fine-tuning a plan to seduce the Singaporean authorities.

They still don't know if their plan was premature or if the National University of Singapore (N.U.S.) simply wanted to delay its response to their application, but Vincent and Marian had to wait a while (read: 5 months) to get an answer. They started getting answers to their questions during the visit of a professor from N.U.S. who came to McGill to "interview" them. Marian only wanted to spend one semester in Singapore, so he needed to get a list of modular courses, because a higher proportion of law courses are year-long in Singapore. They also needed information on the residences at the university. The critical nature of this information becomes apparent when one considers living in an apartment in Singapore. While Toronto doesn't necessarily look cheap in comparison, living in Singapore certainly is very expensive. The Singapore government is not afraid to tax its people on luxury goods and property (in a future article, you'll find out why a regular compact car costs around Cdn. \$50,000 or why a Mercedes can run you up to Cdn. \$ 800,000).

### The Story Since Then...

Last semester, many of you asked us, "What's happening with Singapore?" All of you were given the same answer: "Dunno." In fact, we still didn't know even when we were in China working our way down to Singapore! While in Malaysia, we got in touch with the

University, only to be told that Marian was not expected to attend N.U.S.! It took some pleading skills on our part to convince the proper authorities that we had not come to Asia for nothing! We eventually received an "official" and welcome confirmation of our participation in the Inaugural McGill-N.U.S. Exchange Programme.

In the meantime, back in Quebec City, the Direction générale de l'aide financière had received our applications for financial assistance. It was preparing its tactics, wondering if this time it should use the "file incomplete" or the "confirmation of study missing" approach, or maybe just the silent treatment. We realized how imaginative the Ministry was when we finally heard from the

...the first weeks were quite smooth, punctuated by a rather loud and militant Orientation period, and a great number of "Jam 'n' Hops"...

Direction. It had opted for a new approach. According to new and improved guidelines, and because the exchange was not yet official, we were considered "non-residents" and prevented from obtaining financial support altogether. Flawless logic, indeed. With financial support withdrawn, we had to consider doing what we had always sincerely hoped to avoid: calling home to ask for cash.

Once in Singapore, things started rolling smoothly for Vincent. He had his schedule planned within a week and already was looking at the range of activities available at the university and in the residence. What's more, he ended up with a clean and honest roommate: Marian.

Just as everything started falling into place for Vincent, Marian's problems really started. For the next three weeks he ran from class to class and from Dean to Dean trying to get 5 modular (i.e. 1-semester) subjects. He went to Philosophy, History and Management lectures, trying to find something that would

suit all parties. That's how one can spend three weeks as a pioneer (read: guinea pig) of a new exchange programme.

In the meantime, Vincent was having a great time. In fact, for one of the few moments in his life, he actually seemed laid back. That might have had something to do with the tai chi he was starting to practise almost every day. Or perhaps it was related to the therapeutic value of eating amongst palmtrees.

Although the academic year started in what was, for a Canadian, the middle of the summer (July 18), the first weeks were quite smooth, punctuated by a rather loud and militant Orientation period, and a great number of "Jam 'n' Hops" (i.e. Singaporean parties, for those who wondered.)

Then, during week three, came the tutorials. You see, students at the Faculty of Law only attend 10 hours of classes a week. The remaining 5 hours are spent in tutorials. Tutorials are what makes you read your cases. They are what makes you break your casebook open before the second month of class (depending on who you are). The way they work is that the large class is divided in groups of about ten people. Each group is directed by a tutor (a professor or an instructor) who makes sure that you learn from the weekly assignments you are supposed to complete. Sounds good? Well, it is sometimes, if your tutor is good (most are) and other times not (when you have some egomaniacal students keen on exhibiting the extent of his knowledge; they're known as "kia-su" in "Singlish"). But, in any event, tutorials represent the bulk of the work of a student at N.U.S., because almost all law courses are evaluated by 100% examinations.

So that's the way life started for us in Singapore. Despite the original uncertainty, everything was fine after a few weeks. The authors would like to thank both McGill and N.U.S. Faculties who made this exchange possible in a very short period of time, and who helped resolve the difficulties that arose from time to time. We are both busy and happy in Singapore. We look forward to writing in the *Quid* about our activities in Singapore, life on the N.U.S. campus, politics, local food, our travels, and what makes this small country an amazing one in the heart of South-East Asia.

A la prochaine (merci pour les crédits),  
Marian;

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# Family (and the) Law

The 1st RULE OF LAW school: only the brightest applicants get admitted to the best law schools, get the best jobs and make partner first.

The 2nd RULE OF LAW school: if you're not as bright as the others, no one will notice if you work really, really, really hard.

The 1st EXCEPTION to the RULE OF LAW school: if you have a family, you may choose not to work really, really, really hard.

The law school work ethic has a tendency to be overwhelming and self-perpetuating. The fifty-hour study week quickly becomes the sixty-hour work week, and you consider yourself lucky if you get one of those sixty-hour week jobs!

Of course, there is life beyond the walls of the library, the office and the courtroom, but it's not always easy to close the door on a workaholic week in the fast lane and gear down to dinner with the relatives, mowing the lawn, changing diapers, taxiing kids to hockey and ballet, and just making yourself available to people who need

you (without billing!).

Mature students with families already face this challenge, balancing multiple commitments on our time, attempting to establish some connectivity and relevance between our academic life and our other lives (work, spouses, children, friends, SELF). Single parent students moreover have to face this challenge alone!

The United Nations has declared 1994 the **International Year of the Family**. The family has always had a compelling attraction as a fundamental institution for achieving personal goals and social cohesion. Maybe it needs a little help withstanding the encroachment of academic and professional pressures.

Last Wednesday (September 14) a dozen "mature" students took a few hours off to meet each other and share experiences in dealing with student life. I think everyone enjoyed themselves and it appears we'll meet



again in a more social setting inclusive of family members. If you're interested in joining us, give us a call. That factum will just have to wait!

For more information call John Saywell at 942-3742, Jeff Wood at (819) 322-6634, or Shelley Kath at 285-2599.

## THE PLACEMENT OFFICE NEEDS YOU

The Placement Office, located in the hallway to the left of U.S.O., carries a large collection of current recruiting materials from over 150 law firms across Canada, including Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver. A collection of materials on U.S. and overseas placement opportunities is also available. The office also has access to information on Bar Admission Courses and matching programs for both Quebec and Ontario as well as other provinces. For those interested in alternative legal and non-legal opportunities, the office has government and non-profit listings as well as materials on consulting and corporate counsel opportunities.

The Placement Office is student-run and requires people to staff the office to keep it available to students in the faculty. Students need only volunteer for 1-2 hours per week and in doing so will have ample opportunity to research areas of personal interest. If you are interested, please sign up on the Placement Office door.

The Placement Office is always looking for resource materials and for information on where students were working this summer. If you have such materials, please leave them with Barbara Kerr. Also, please fill out a Summer Placement Survey (located in front of the office) and leave it under the door.



# Subversion

(Continued from page 1)

since come to see, the hard way, the wisdom of my elders' words.

My initial experiences here at law school seemed to confirm my "read" of the situation. In the case memo and foundations paper, my marks were proportional to the effort that I put into them and to the level of understanding that I thought I had achieved. Of course, these assignments are worth almost nothing in terms of the year's total marks.

Then came exams, which really did count for something. It was here that my naive faith in the positive relationship between marks and work was irrevocably shattered, like a beer bottle dropped from my third floor balcony. Those jaded, cynical geeks in the upper years had been right all along! The idea that more work meant more marks (at law school at least) was nothing but a quaint myth, similar to that of Santa Claus or the Easter Bunny. Yes, it's true about them too!

For example: in two of the classes I took last year, let's just call them X and class Y, I took radically different approaches. In class X, I read the cases and attended class religiously. I felt that I knew the subject like the back of my hand.

In class Y, on the other hand, I did not attend any classes and merely read a few summaries a short time before the exam. Guess which course I did better in... Yup, the latter, class Y.

Now there were several possible explanations for this twisted result: one was that I was the problem -- perhaps I over-analyzed the exam for class X or perhaps I simply "choked". Another possibility was that my professors were the problem, that they were inherently evil and liked to play games with students' minds. While both of these explanations probably contained some grains of truth, the cynical upper year students' assertion that this sort of thing happened to everyone pointed to a third, more plausible explanation: *traditional examinations are an altogether unreliable (not to mention unpleasant) way to evaluate students' comprehension of legal concepts.*

It took me one year of suffering to realize this truth. Since then, I have learned that most of my fellow students knew it all along. The funny thing is that even some professors to whom I have talked, themselves the products of an exam-based system and therefore the last people one would expect to oppose it, question the evaluative merit of examinations.

The issue has therefore become

not so much whether exams are deeply flawed as a way to test our knowledge but rather whether or not there are better ways and what they might be. I look forward to any suggestions which you, my fellow *Quid* readers, might have on this subject.

In the meantime, my advice to first year students is to treat classes and readings as interesting, but not really necessary. In the long run, you will understand the law better if you go to some classes and do some readings. But if getting half decent marks with the least amount of effort is what matters to you, grab some good summaries and relax. Any professor who tells you otherwise, while at the same time evaluating you by means of a traditional exam, is full of... ah... um... manure.

## Parizeau

(Continued from page 1)

association" and to mediate the transition to a Québec quasi-state. Yet in 1995, the ultimate arbiter will be our neighbors to the south, because only they will be able to determine whether, for example, an independent Québec will have unhindered access to U.S. and Latin American markets.

As the clock runs down on Mr. Parizeau's "third period", his self-imposed commitment to a referendum within 10 months of September 12, 1994 will prove to be problematic. By next summer, the Québec economy will be robust. It will be extremely difficult to convince mainstream Quebecers that their standard of living would improve through secession from Canada.

Mr. Parizeau seems not to have noticed that the federalists have already undermined his strategy by putting a key Canadian in the heart of Québec City. Saskatchewan Prairie boy and arch-Canuck Wendel Clark stands poised at centre ice with the Nordiques to show Quebecers that the rest of the country isn't so bad after all.

Shortly after the federalists send the game into overtime, a red light will flash at one end of the arena and 52.3% of Quebecers will cheer.

## TESTS

By Walt Whitman (1819-1892)

All submit to them where they sit, inner, secure,  
unapproachable to analysis in the soul,

Not traditions, not the outer authorities are the judges,

They are the judges of outer authorities and of all  
traditions,

They corroborate as they go only whatever corroborates  
themselves, and touches themselves;

For all that, they have it forever in themselves to  
corroborate far and near without one exception.



# Le Quid Novi sera publié à toutes les deux semaines

## Quid Novi to be published every two weeks

(voir p. 3 pour les détails/see p. 3 for details)

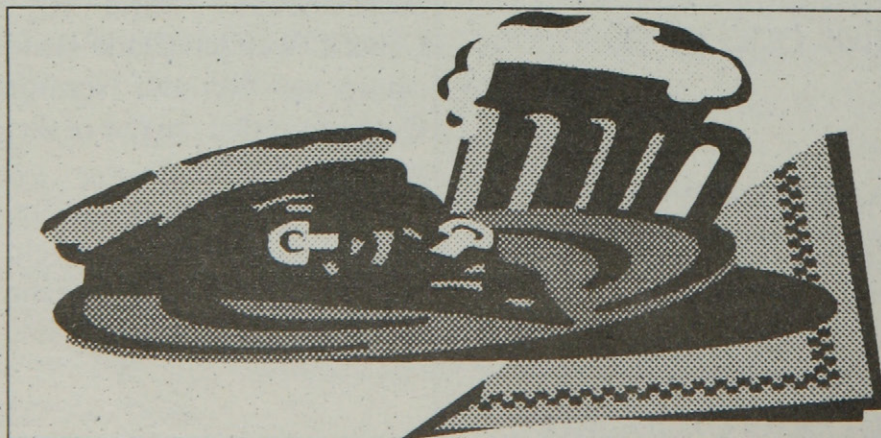
### ATTENTION! LES DATES LIMITES POUR LES PROCHAINES QUATRE ÉDITIONS SONT LES SUIVANTES:

Vendredi, le 30 septembre 1994 pour l'édition du mercredi 12 octobre 1994  
 Vendredi, le 14 octobre 1994 pour l'édition du mercredi 26 octobre 1994  
 Vendredi, le 28 octobre 1994 pour l'édition du mercredi 9 novembre 1994  
 Vendredi, le 11 novembre 1994 pour l'édition du mercredi 23 novembre 1994

Les soumissions peuvent être effectuées par courrier électronique (<<[quid@lsa.lan.mcgill.ca](mailto:quid@lsa.lan.mcgill.ca)>> ou tout simplement <<*quid*>> si vous êtes branchés au réseau de la Faculté de droit), ou au moyen de disquettes ou transcriptions dactylographiées ou manuscrites. Les disquettes Macintosh peuvent être traduites en format IBM à la salle des ordinateurs. Les disquettes et les transcriptions dactylographiées ou manuscrites peuvent être déposées dans la (boîte aux lettres) du Quid Novi, au bureau de l'Association des étudiants en droit de McGill.

### ATTENTION! DEADLINES FOR THE REMAINING FOUR ISSUES WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

FRIDAY, 30 September 1994 for the Wednesday, 12 October 1994 issue  
 FRIDAY, 14 October 1994 for the Wednesday, 26 October 1994 issue  
 FRIDAY, 28 October 1994 for the Wednesday, 9 November 1994 issue  
 FRIDAY, 11 November 1994 for the Wednesday, 23 November 1994 issue  
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One of life's little bonuses - Don buys dinner for the production crew! (But you have to listen to his story\ies...)